

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a probe unit having leads whose front portions extending beyond an edge of a substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a recess in a surface layer of a substrate;

forming a sacrificial layer in the recess;

forming a number of leads on the surface of the substrate, the leads being disposed in parallel and extending into an area of the sacrificial layer;

forming a cut extending from a bottom surface of the substrate into the sacrificial layer; and

removing the sacrificial layer.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sacrificial layer is made of metal, resin or inorganic material.

3-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sacrificial layer forming step, comprises:

depositing the sacrificial layer both in the recess and on a surface of the substrate surrounding the recess; and

removing part of the sacrificial layer to leave the sacrificial layer in the recess.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the sacrificial layer is first deposited on the entire upper surface of the substrate surrounding the recess and then all of the sacrificial layer located outside of the recess is removed.